



December 2010

Volume 6, Issue 12

Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

IN THIS ISSUE
PAGE 2: Minutes
PAGE 3: A Jot from Jill!
PAGE 4: W7OS SKN Announcement!
Page 5 Sparky!

Good afternoon fellow club members.

Its another gloomy December day here at radio WG7X, but that just means that Christmas is almost here and the snow is holding off for a while longer...

Well, at least for this week!

Wasn't that a nice mess we had for the Thanksgiving week!? Fortunately, yours truly had the foresight to take that entire week off. I was able to watch the entire fiasco unfold from the comfort of the warm, safe, WG7X estate!



Hopefully everyone had a great holiday!

...And now for something completely different!

Election results are in, and the new officers elected will begin their terms on January 1st 2011.

They are:

President: Gary McAdams WG7X

Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ

Board: Nick Winter K7MO

Board: Crystal Quamme K7XX

Lets welcome our new officers as they begin their new terms...

But wait! How the heck did I get elected Prez of this organization? Somebody must have guessed wrong!

But seriously folks, I look forward to leading the RCT for the next two years. Let's see how we do ,OK?

73 Gary WG7X

Radio Club of Tacoma

BOARD MEETING Minutes November 10, 2010

President Jill, K7JIL called the meeting to order at 1933 Hours.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Jill, K7JIL.

Health and Welfare:

Linda, AB7YL reported on her father Harry W7HSA back in hospital with heart problems. She asked for a member to make reservations for meetings, Mike W7XTZ will take on that duty.

Alan, KB7SVU reported on wife Tressie KC7BAL health condition.

New Business:

President Jill K7JIL asked for a Secretary replacement.

John, AC7WW presented VE report. All available seats were occupied for the Tuesday evening, November 9th testing session at the clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Nine VE's graded thirty one elements from seventeen candidates. Element two had eight passed and three failed, element three saw six passed and nine failed and element four had one pass and four fail.

New license class earned was eight Technicians, six General and one Extra. Two candidates failed to upgrade or obtain a license. Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Steve, AD7VL	Al, AC7BU
Jon, AD7AW	
Rich, KK7VH	Jim, N7RHX
Joe, K7AWJ	
Stephen, AD7AB	Bob, AD7LJ

The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, December 14th, 2010.

Alan, W7AML gave a short presentation on the Doc Spike Award.

Christmas party will be Saturday December 11th at the TACID Bldg. Gather at 1730 hrs with dinner at 1800 hrs. Jim, KE6WHN is Chairman and a sign up list was passed around.

Logger's Bark December 2010

Jill, K7JIL passed around a plaque from the 2004 Field Day challenge with the Mike and Key club which she will present to them on Saturday.

Jill, K7JIL thanked Al, AC7BU for hosting coffee and snacks at November meetings

Worth, W7WG reported on the Tumer Joy DD951 docked at Bremerton open house on Veterans Day November 11, 2010.

Rich, N7ANF reported no net on Tuesday November 9th because Repeater was down.

Program:

Jim, KE7VWI presented a program and demonstration of a "P-3" pan adapter for Elecraft Radios

Elections:

Jill, K7JIL thanked all election nominees.

Report of the Election Committee

Jill, K7JIL reported on the election results for 2011 and 2012:

Gary McAdams, WG7X for President

Robert Purdom, AD7LJ for Treasurer

Nick Winter, K7MO for Board of Director Position

Crystal Quamme, K7XK for Board of Director Position

Jill, K7JIL thanked the Election Committee, Frank AC7JY, Bruce WE7P, Pat WT7N.

Door prize went to Si KA7AQT.

Meeting adjourned at 2055 Hours
Submitted by John AC7WW

A Jot From Jill!

I presented the 2004 Field Day Challenge plaque at the general membership meeting on Saturday, Nov 20 at 10:00 AM. The Vice-President was presiding. Steve Cook KD7IQ. Frank did not go with me. The Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club hold their meetings in Renton at the Salvation Army Headquarters Bldg.

THE STORY IN BRIEF

"The Radio Club of Tacoma decided to challenge the Mike and Key Amateur Radio Club for Field Day to see who could earn the most points. Alan Hughes KB7SVU, member of both RCT and Mike and Key, came to an RCT meeting to accept the challenge. Mike and Key won. More recently they wanted our club to present to them an award for winning. Jill, K7Jil, Radio Club of Tacoma President, agreed to present the plaque at their membership meeting"

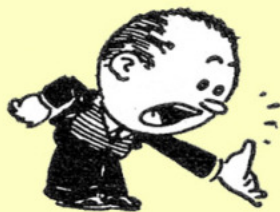
73 Jill, K7JIL



From Frank, AC7JY:

Saturday Jill went to the Mike and Key monthly meeting and presented this plaque to them. It's a little hard to read but, it says something like;

**MIKE & KEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2004 FIELD DAY CHALLENGE
"YOU KICKED OUR BUTTS"
RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA
W7DK**



The W7OS Little Achievers Present to you...



ARRL Straight Key Night - 2011 UTC

Members and freinds of RCT are invited to attend the No Host Potluck dinner and participate in SKN with two stations OTA.

The RCT Clubhouse doors open at **4:00 PM PST on Friday Dec 31.**

We plan to have lots of Morse Code QSOs going on... but you do not need to know Morse Code to attend and have some fun.

Bring food to share. The new RCT Prez will make coffee.

Bring your SK or Bug and make a contact or two.

Need info? Check www.w7dk.org
or email: webgeek@w7dk.org



But Wait!! There's More

The Little Achievers Announce



The 2010 SKN Straight Key Judging Contest

Bring your Favorite Straight Key, Cootie Key, and/or Bug and show it off.

A panel of 3 judges will determine the **BEST** based on Appearance and Morse Code Sending Feel. A 1/4 inch mono cable attached to your key is good to bring. Code Practice Oscillators will be on hand to send some Morse.

The **GRAND PRIZE** winner will win a trip to the Nationals Contest

Try and Bribe the Judges... and see what happens.



Fine Print: More info can be found at www.w7dk.org/w7os

email: webgeek@w7dk.org

Dateline: December 2010

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more...

Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.

- Mystery photo
- Around the Club
- ARRL and such
- Attaboys
- View from the Shack

Mystery Photo

Last month's mystery photo is a key part of the Radio Club of Tacoma History.

It is the original Radio Club of Tacoma's Clubhouse. Purchased in the 1920's and sold in part due to the great depression. We're strapped for space today,

think what it would be like to still be in the Oakes street clubhouse, Ouch!



Around the Club...

Election Results...

The people have spoken... The newly elected officers for the coming year are:

President—Gary McAdams WG7X; Treasurer—Bob Purdom AD7LJ, Board member—Crystal Quamme K7XK, and Board member—Nick Winter K7MO. Several seasoned members, and a relative newcomer make up a good mix to help steer the RCT ship of state for the next few years.

They represent you, so don't be bashful letting them know when things are going well, or when you have a good idea for making the club better.

The **upgrade and improvements** at the Clubhouse continue as does the attendance at the Saturday Open Houses...

Last Saturday, many were busy prowling though the Swapmeet items, while Frank AC7JY and a crew of volunteers stored away the W7DK at the Fair promotion gear, moved the lending library shelving and installed several new file cabinets. Here's some snaps of the activity...



ARRL...

CONVERSATION

You Can Go Home Again

As many of the *Contest Update* readers prepare to head over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house for Thanksgiving festivities, I'm here to report on a ham radio equivalent. While Norman Rockwell may not have [painted](#) it, the charm and goodwill of sharing the Sweepstakes operating duties at one's alma mater club station certainly captures the same essentials. I was fortunate to make contact with my former club at the Missouri University

of Science and Technology, [WØEEE](#), and secure an invitation for Phone Sweepstakes. This year's rule change to allow alumni to operate School Club category stations made possible my personal "ham radio homecoming". So early Saturday morning, I loaded the car with toolbox, spare gadgetry, and a bag of cough drops (don't ask) to make the 100-mile journey down I-44.

Right on schedule, I met club president Barry KCØYDZ for a hamburger and we adjourned to the Electrical Engineering building to which weekend access had been arranged. The station had been relocated from the stone basement of the venerable Rolla Building, once adorned with a 60-foot tower perched on the granite chimney and a Mosley Classic 36 tri-band Yagi at the 100-foot level, a legendary 80 meter dipole stretched completely across the campus quadrangle, the last dime glass-bottle soda machine in central Missouri, and a brigade of belfry bats to bamboozle beam builders. These days, the club has much more modern quarters with a tower gracing another building's roof and a great shot to the horizon in all directions. The bats stayed behind.



Jim KD5TPH (left), NØAX (the old guy in the middle), and Barry KCØYDZ shared operating duties at WØEEE for Phone Sweepstakes.

(Photo by NØAX)

As the club's HF beam had been destroyed by a recent ice storm, a multi-band dipole was going to be the antenna of choice, but for Sweepstakes that's not the handicap it might have been for a DX contest. Indeed, it proved to be more than up to the job! A different challenge was presented by a piece of equipment that I knew well and was still on the job - a grizzled veteran of many electromagnetic campaigns, the club's SB-220. Yes, everything still lit up properly without a whisper of complaint but keying the amp proved to be problematic. Until the small toggle switch labeled "Standby / Active" was discovered. One click of the antenna relay and an upward flick of the power meter later, we knew we had a winner.



A more youthful NØAX (left) and Randy WAØRAD pilot WØEEE during CW Sweepstakes in 1974. (Photo by WAØACF)

250 contacts later, my roborant homecoming came to an end over a shared pizza. There were contacts to celebrate and future projects to consider. I have three new friends at WØEEE and they have a new one not far away. Already, alumni of our old rivals at Kansas State, WØQQQ, are thinking about another Sweepstakes challenge. I'd like to put that "dit dit dit" back on the air during a

big contest, too. We shall see. I am grateful to the club members - Barry KCØYDZ, Jim KD5TPH, and Andreas KCØSU - who stuck around on the beginning of Thanksgiving break to humor an inspired alumnus somewhat soggy with nostalgia and let him hog the operating chair for the day. I'll be back, guys, thanks!



While appreciating the plenteous season, though, let us not forget that all is not an exuberant Thanksgiving cornucopia. Many are slicing what they have extra thin this year and relying on the generosity of others to get them through every day. Rockwell [painted](#) that scene, too. Share ham radio's weal of helpful kindness and have a great holiday season, no matter how you celebrate it.

73, Ward NØAX

NØAX (with somewhat less hair, on the right) pounds the pileups as WØEEE with Barry KCØYDZ vigilant for elusive new multipliers. (Photo by KCØSU)



The oldest WØEEE club member of all - a 38-year-old SB-220 repaired by NØAX in 1978 and still ticking! (Photo by NØAX)

[Solar Update](#)

Tad "[For I have the warmth of the Sun](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: Sunspot numbers declined this week, and it looks like the average daily sunspot number will be less than half the value [reported last week](#). Solar flux was in the 90s a week ago and is now around 75. The predicted solar flux from NOAA/USAF shows levels continuing around 75 through December 1, and then rising gradually and returning to 90 around December 12-14; quiet geomagnetic conditions are predicted for the near term. This week's bulletin will be available as usual on Friday from the ARRL Web site, but it won't go out from W1AW or via e-mail until Monday, November 29. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday,



November 26. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by The Beach Boys' [The Warmth of the Sun](#).

[Amateur Radio in Space: ARISS Aiming to Raise Its Educational Profile](#)

NASA will assume more direct sponsorship of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program as an educational project. Among

its activities, ARISS oversees the project that enables schoolchildren to speak via ham radio with astronauts aboard the International Space Station. NASA also will embrace ARISSat as an educational project for the ISS National Lab. A reconfigured, yet-to-be-named education planning group will pick up the mission of the ARISS Communications Council. These changes were among the outcomes of a meeting of NASA and ARISS International officials who gathered November 12-13 at ARRL Headquarters. Read more [here](#).

[Amateur Radio in Space: Hams Invited to Listen for New Satellites](#)



Five research satellites were carried to orbit on November 19 aboard a Minotaur V rocket from Kodiak Island, Alaska. All the satellites use Amateur Radio frequencies and hams have been invited to participate in their missions by monitoring and collecting data.

Two of the satellites are FASTRACs -- relatively small "nanosatellites" -- built by students at The University of Texas in Austin. They enter orbit as a single spacecraft, but then separate into FASTRAC 1 (known as "Sara Lily") and FASTRAC 2 (referred to as "Emma"). Both satellites use 1200 or 9600 baud AX.25 digital communication and transmit at 1 W output, so they should be receivable with omnidirectional VHF or UHF antennas and decodable by ordinary packet radio hardware and software. After their scientific missions are complete, the satellites will be reconfigured to function as digipeater relays for Amateur Radio use, as part of the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS). Read more [here](#).

[NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO](#)

New HF operators often shy away from Top Band (160 meters) thinking the demands of the band too severe for modest stations and antennas. No need for that! There is lots of potential for Top Band excitement for the Little Pistol - load up anything you can and see what happens! This weekend's CQ WW CW and then the ARRL 160 Meter Contest are great opportunities to try [160 Meters On A Budget](#).

[BULLETINS](#)

Don't forget that this year's [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#) will add the 32 Mexican states as multipliers! Be sure your logging software and CTY files are up to date, avoiding unpleasant mid-contest surprises.

Attaboys:

Work at the clubhouse continues to make it a great place to congregate and share our avocation. Thanks to Frank AC7JY for finding and installing the new cabinets, and to the folks on the property management team who continue to select and offer gear at the last Saturday mini-Swapmeets.

Here's a shot of the new front step light engineered and installed by the little achievers; Al N7OMS, Bruce WE7P, Rich KR7W, Pat WT7N and others if I missed someone.



View from the Shack...

Hope you all enjoyed the annual **Christmas dinner and Awards Banquet...**

Sparky

"All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism."

The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

...And now, "A word from Worth"...

Dear Whiskey Groupers and friends (or not),

I just want to report that my daughter Heather has brought me up to her home, beautiful Bellingham WA, for a few days. I have not been able to get on the air on the "Whiskey Group" because Heather's apt had inadequate heat during a severe (for Bellingham) cold spell and we had to resort to a motel. I have not gotten my new mobile antenna to tune up yet on the car.

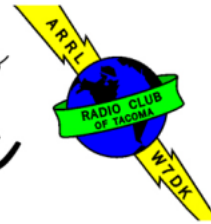
Bellingham, as usual, is unusually attractive with its parks and walking trails, even a great coffee shop, along the shore of Bellingham Bay with San Juan Islands and mountains of Canada in the distance, and the university, all with apparently very nice people.

I have not been over to see Russ and his steamboat this trip. The weather has cleared up for now, and I hope to get down to the amateur radio Gig Harbor first Saturday breakfast at the Madronna Links restaurant.

73, Worth W7WG



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



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Club Officers

President: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com
 Vice Pres: Rick Rose, KE7EMW, 253-581-7673 rick-rose@comcast.net
 Secretary: Temporarily vacant...
 Treasurer: Joe Lester 73radio@gmail.com

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Lentz, W7AML alentz@centurytel.net
 Harry Adams W7HSA RCT@xemapsl.com
 Silas Nelson KA7AQT sinelsen@amum.ups.edu
 Gary McAdams, WG7X wg7x@arri.net
 Frank Palmer AC7JY ac7jy@msn.com

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



DECEMBER 2010 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays December 8th and 22nd at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday December 1st 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .